

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 1, 10, 14, and 15 have been amended to recite that verifying the trustworthiness of the provider of the service occurs “responsive to a request for verification from a communications device of the user.” Support for the claim amendment is believed to be found in at least paragraph 15, 16, 19, 20, and 27 of the Instant Specification.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 over *Weatherspoon* in view of *Kalavade* is noted with appreciation.

Amended and un-amended claims 1-4, 9-11, 14, 18-19, 22, and 24 are patentable over Kimura (EP 1161031) in view of Gerdes et al. (U.S. Published Application 2003/0046541)

The rejection of claims 1-4, 9-11, 14, 18-19, 22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kimura* in view of *Gerdes* is believed overcome in view of the foregoing amendments and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Kimura and Gerdes fail to verify trustworthiness responsive to a user request for verification

Neither *Kimura* nor *Gerdes* appear to disclose or suggest verifying the trustworthiness of a service provider with a party independent from the provider responsive to a request for verification from a communications device of the user as claimed in amended claim 1.

Kimura appears to describe only authentication occurring at the service provider. See e.g., FIG. 1 in which the authentication means 13, 15, and 16 comprise a part of the access point device 18 and are not a party independent from the provider as claimed.

Gerdes appears to describe only authentication being performed by an authentication server responsive to a request from the service provider. See e.g., FIG. 1, step S20 in which “the service provider SP sends a request for the confirmation of the user identity S20 to the authentication server AS.” *Gerdes* at page 6, paragraph 51. Thus, *Gerdes* fails to verify trustworthiness responsive to a user request for verification as claimed in claim 1.

Kimura and *Gerdes* both appear to perform authentication in response to a service provider request for authentication and **not** in response to a user request in accord with claim 1. Based on the foregoing, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of *Kimura* with *Gerdes* and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 10, and 14 are patentable over the combination of *Kimura* in view of *Gerdes* for at least reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 1 and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 9-11, 14, 18-19, 22, and 24 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 10, and 14, include further important features, and are patentable over *Kimura* in view of *Gerdes* for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 9-11, 14, 18-19, 22, and 24 is in order.

Claims 15-17, and 20 are patentable over *Kimura* in view of *Stewart et al.* (US 2006/0183467)

Independent claim 15 is patentable over *Kimura* in view of *Stewart* for at least reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 1 and withdrawal of the rejection is in order. Specifically, neither of *Kimura* nor *Stewart* appear to disclose or suggest authenticating a service provider responsive to a user request for authentication.

Claims 16-17 and 20 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 15, include further important features, and are patentable over *Kimura* in view of *Stewart* for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 15. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 16-17 and 20 is in order.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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